

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
HB 26
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We respectfully request that you appropriate \$450 million in funding for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2010.

Peace Corps continues to be one of America's finest expressions of friendship and solidarity across the globe. Peace Corps is an important element of America's soft power. Investing in Peace Corps enhances our credibility and moral standing abroad, while exposing people around the world to the core American values of peace, progress, tolerance and prosperity.

Peace Corps reports that at least 19 nations without existing programs have requested American volunteers. Even more countries would welcome an expansion of existing programs. And while more than 13,000 Americans apply annually to serve their country in Peace Corps, serious budget constraints provide placements for fewer than 30 percent of applicants. Additional resources would allow Peace Corps to establish nearly 20 new missions and provide service opportunities to thousands of Americans.

Last year, Peace Corps was forced to reduce its number of trainees, reducing the number of volunteers in the field to fewer than 8,000. A robust funding increase will reverse this trend and allow Peace Corps to expand at the rate that President Obama has advocated. We believe a \$450 million Peace Corps budget is the minimum necessary to enable the agency to responsibly achieve the President's stated goal to double Peace Corps over a two to three year period.

We appreciate the ardent support you have provided to Peace Corps in the past and welcome the opportunity to work with you to innovate, expand and support Peace Corps in FY 10 and for years to come.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR, M.C.
RPCV Colombia, 1964-66

THOMAS E. PETRI, M.C.
RPCV Somalia, 1966-67

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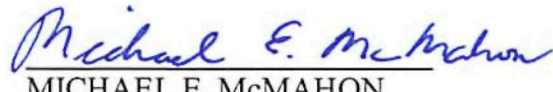


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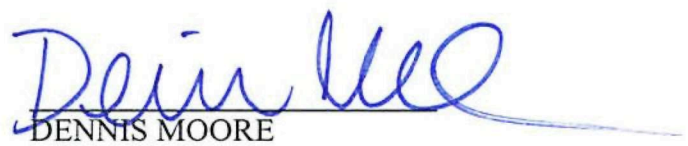
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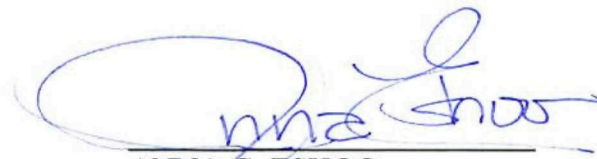


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WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress

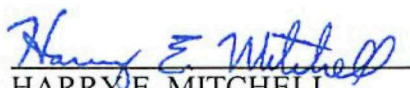
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STEPHEN E. LYNCH
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MICHAEL M. HONDA, M.C.
RPCV El Salvador, 1965-67



STEVE DRIEHAUS, M.C.
RPCV Senegal, 1988-91



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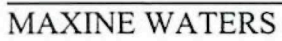

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